

VI

THE PATH OF SUCCESS

1872-1877

Flaubert and his intimates: Zola, Goncourt, Tourgeneff, Daudet, and Maupassant— "Therese Raquin" as a play— "Le Ventre de Paris" and the sensitive critics — A first charge of plagiarism — The "Dinners" of the Hissed Authors — Zola and good fare — Sunday gatherings at Flaubert's — "La Conquete de Plassans" — "Les Heritiers Rabourdin"— Zola in the Rue St. Georges — His contributions to a Russian review—"La Faute de l'Abbe Mouret" — "Nouveaux Contes a Ninon"—"Son Excellence Eugene Bougon" — The truth about "back-stairs gossip" — Flaubert's mimicry of Napoleon III — Zola, Daudet, and "personalities" in fiction — Zola "sees mice and birds" — His stay at St. Aubin-sur-Mer — He plans "L'Assommoir" — Publication of "Son Excellence" — Dramatic criticism for "Le Bien Public"—Zola's income early in 1876 — Serial issue of "L'Assommoir" — The outcry and the cessation of publication— Oatulle Mendes to the rescue—"L'Assommoir" as a book — Its large sales — A furious controversy — Articles, pamphlets, poems, parodies, and lectures — The years of "L'Assommoir" a date in French. Literature — Other writings of the time — Zola's "band," Alexis, Huysmans, Maupassant, Ceard, and Hennique— Flaubert, "L'Assommoir" and "Naturalism" — Zola's hammer, journalism — Self-assertion and pushfulness the weapons of the age.

ATEK the Franco-German War, Gustave Flaubert, who during fifteen years of the imperial *regime* had resided, when in Paris, on the Boulevard du Temple, found a *pied-h-terre* in the Rue Murillo, near the Pare Monceau, thereby becoming one of Zola's neighbours, for the Rue Murillo is only a few minutes' walk from the Rue de La Condamine. Zola frequently called on Flaubert, whom he at first found very downcast, for the fall of the Empire seemed to

him the end
of the world, and besides, he had not yet
recovered from the
failure of his book, " L'Education
sentimentale," published
in 1869. It was at Flaubert's that Zola again
met Edmond